Mrs. Rella F. Yeager

GREEN BANK DISTRICT - Pocahontas county

Green Bank District is the most northern district in ~~the~~ Pocahontas county. It is bounded on the north and north-west by Randolph County, on the east by Pendleton and Highland counties, south by Huntersville and Edray Districts. The surface is broken and mountainous. The fountain streams of the Greenbrier river constitute the drainage system. Among these are the east and west branches of the Greenbrier river, Little River, Deer Creek, North fork of Deer Creek and Leatherbark Creek.

The old mill which has been mentioned with the machine in connection with the making of tools and implements of iron and steel. This machine was used in drawing out and flanning large iron and steel for making wagon tires, horse shoes, shovel plows, bolts, nails and shaping out heavy iron work. The site of the old Mill and Tilt Hammer is on the land of Henry Wooddell, near Greenbank, in Greenbank District. The pit and embankments may be seeøn on the west side of the road between Martin Sutton's Blacksmith shop and Henry Wooddell's house. The old Mill race is now used for the county road. This mill was a great labor saving for the community and had its niche in the early development of the community.

Harman Conrad of Frederick County, Maryland, purchased the William Taylor Grant from John Brown, on August 3rd, 1799, and began to harness the water power of North Fork, which was called Cartmills Creek at that time. He built a Tub Mill or corn mill which was kept in running condition for ten or fifteen

years. His son, Solomon Conrad, who was a veteran of the war of 1812, after going through the war and being honorably discharged took charge of the home place and rebuilt the mill, which was made to grind buckwheat and wheat. About 1840, he built and operated an up and down saw mill, until the close of the Civil War. This mill, known as the Conrad Mill, was considered first class, making the very best corn meal, buckwheat and wheat flour. In connection with the saw mill he had a dry kiln, and always had some of the very best white pine lumber to sell. In that day and time no log was sawed into lumber unless it was the very best.

The old mill site and the Solomon Conrad homestead has been the home of O. L. Orndorff, a grandson, who, in 1893, employed to re-roof and weatherboard the old home, and Warwick Hudson and Newton Ervin to rebuild the chimneys. This is the oldest house in the Greenbank community, having stood 115 years or more. It is on the colonial style, with massive chimneys, and old time fire places and spacious mantels in a fine state of preservation and has the appearance of standing another century.

In the year 1822, Patrick Bruffey purchased from Jacob Gillispie and James Tallman, 134 acres of land, which was part of the Thomas Jarvis Grant of 400 acres. He built a grist mill and saw mill and carved a mill race out of the hill side more than a quarter of a mile. This same mill race has been in constant use for a period of 112 years and is still running. In connection with the saw mill, he established a wagon shop,

blacksmith shop, and supplied the neighborhood with wagons. The late William Sutton of the hill neighborhood, learned the wagon makers trade under Patrick Bruffey and carried on the work long after the Civil War. Patrick Bruffey was Magistrate in the community for several years and became Sheriff of Pocahontas County later.

The pioneer, Daniel Kerr, who, soon after the Revolutionary War, located on Deer Creek, now below the town of Boyer, established a grist mill, saw mill, blacksmith shop and managed a store and his place became one of industry for that part of the community. A lathe was installed at this place and was operated by Frederick Phillips, who was a wheelright, and made spinning wheels, looms, reels, spools, spool frames, and chairs. The site of this old mill may be seen on the north side of the creek near the east end of the Hevener farm.

The pioneer Luday Taylor, who was a veteran of the war of 1812, purchased land from Solomon Townsend and others in 1819, and settled on Galford's Creek. He erected a grist mill and a saw mill. This mill was kept in running condition until about 1880, and had its niche in the early advancement and development of that part of Greenbank community. The old Luday Taylor homestead is now owned by Arch Galford.

Thus is noted some of the early developments of Greenbank District, Pocahontas County, which District now leads the County in industrial development.

Pearl H Yeager

(Above information gotten from local sources)